goods. The EXIM Policy for 2002—07 incorporates a number of measures to proactively promote exports. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government include launching the scheme of Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports, strengthening of Market Access Initiative, establishing Agri Export Zones, incorporating additional features and facilities for Sepcial Economic Zonnes, launching of "Focus Africa" Programme, etc. Besides these, a Medium Term Export Strategy 2002—07 announced this year, has identified 220 Focus Products and 25 Focus Markets and also outline key strategies and sector-wise strategies to acheive 1% share in world's exports by 2006-07.

Closed/sick industrial units

1790. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial units having been closed, declared sick or running in loss upto 31st October, 2002;

(b) the number of industries closed, declared sick and running in loss upto 28 February, 2001; and

(c) the number of workers rendered unemployed in both the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Labour Bureau, Shimla, under Ministry of Labour collects information on closure of industrial units covered by Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, and the number of workers affected by the closure. Information on closure is compiled calendar year-wise. The number of units reported closed during 2001 (Provisional) were 151 and number of workers affected were 11,599. During 2002 (January-September) (Provisional), 47 units have been reported closed and workers affected were 2,302.

Compensation to tobacco barn owners

1791. SHRI NANDY YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of phasing out of tobacco production, tobacco barns have been closed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including number of barns closed in the country, State-wise;

(c) if so, whether any compensation has been paid to tobacco barn owners;

(d) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(e) whether any financial relief has been given to tobacco cultivators for providing them incentives for raising alternative crops in the form of input-subsidy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Export prospects in Latin America

1792. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-items captioned, "Export promotion drive soon-Exporters see good business in Latin America," which appeared in the Economic Times, dated the 26th August, 2002;

(b) whether our exporters are mounting a major export promotion drive in Latin America;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the help rendered by Government or the Export Promotion Council to encourage exporters in their drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.